

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1533

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: SCENARIO FOR AIRLIFT
MEMORIAL/GOLDEN BOOK CEREMONY

REF: STATE 160223

1. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED SCENARIO FOR CEREMONIES INCLUDING
SIGNING OF GOLDEN BOOK AT AIRLIFT MEMORIAL ADJACENT TO
TEMPELHOF AIRPORT. SENAT INFORMS US THAT APPROXIMATELY
5,000 CAN BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE "INNER RING" OF AIRLIFT
MEMORIAL OF WHICH APPROXIMATELY 1,000 WILL BE AMERICAN
SERVICEMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES AND OTHER U.S. RESIDENTS
OF BERLIN.

2. WE ASSUME THAT PRESIDENT AND ACCOMPANYING DIGNI-
TARIES WILL MOVE BY MOTORCADE FROM AIRCRAFT TO THE
AIRLIFT MEMORIAL. WE GATHER THAT EXACT LOCATION AT
WHICH PRESIDENT WILL DISEMBARK HAS NOT YET BEEN FIXED,
BUT DRIVING TIME FROM ANY POINT ON TEMPELHOF TARMAC TO
AIRLIFT MEMORIAL WOULD BE 3-5 MINUTES WITH APPROPRIATE
POLICE CONTROL OF ROUTE.

3. FOLLOWING ARRIVAL OF MOTORCADE AT EDGE OF SEMI-
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CIRCULAR PARK SURROUNDING AIRLIFT MEMORIAL, PRESIDENT
COULD PROCEED BY FOOT APPROXIMATELY 150 FEET TO AIR-
LIFT MEMORIAL AT WHICH POINT HE COULD PLACE A WREATH
AT THE BASE, THEREBY HONORING THE MEMORY OF THOSE 31
AMERICANS, 39 BRITISH, AND 8 GERMANS WHO WERE KILLED
IN THE COURSE OF OPERATING THE AIRLIFT. GOVERNING
MAYOR STOBBE FEELS VERY STRONGLY THAT A WREATH MUST BE LAID.

4. FOLLOWING WREATH LAYING PRESIDENT AND OTHER DIGNITARIES WOULD AMOUNT ADJACENT PLATFORM FOR FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- (A) GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE WOULD SPEAK FOR NO MORE THAN THREE MINUTES, WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT TO BERLIN AND INVITING HIM TO PLACE HIS NAME IN THE GOLDEN BOOK;
- (B) PRESIDENT WOULD SIGN THE GOLDEN BOOK AND THEN REPLY TO GOVERNING MAYOR'S REMARKS;
- (C) FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WOULD MAKE BRIEF REMARKS.

5. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO HAVE ABOUT SEVEN OR EIGHT US, BRITISH, AND FRENCH AIRMEN STANDING ADJACENT TO AIRLIFT MEMORIAL ON SIDE OPPOSITE TO PRESIDENTIAL PLATFORM OR LINING WALKWAY LEADING TO MEMORIAL. THIS GROUP, IN OUR VIEW WOULD BETTER SYMBOLIZE THE TRIPARTITE CHARACTER OF THE AIRLIFT THAN THE USUAL COLOR GUARD.

6. LOCAL AUTHORITIES RECOMMEND HAVING POLICE BAND ON HAND TO PLAY APPROPRIATE MUSIC DURING PERIOD CROWD IS ASSEMBLING AND AWAITING PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL. BAND COULD ALSO PROVIDE TAPS OR GERMAN EQUIVALENT, "EIN GUTER KAMERAD" DURING WREATH LAYING IF DESIRED. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES THAT WE WOULD NOT WISH TO HAVE NATIONAL ANTHEMS PLAYED DURING CONFIDENTIAL

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CEREMONIES SINCE BRITISH AND FRENCH ANTHEMS AS WELL AS GERMAN AND AMERICAN WOULD BE INVOLVED AND THIS WOULD THEREFORE BECOME TOO TIME CONSUMING.

7. ONE THOUGHT WHICH OCCURS TO US IS TO SEE WHETHER IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE FOR A NUMBER OF AIRLIFT PILOTS AND CREW MEMBERS TO BE IN BERLIN FOR THE OCCASION. ONE SUCH AMERICAN PILOT RESIDES IN BERLIN AND CAN BE ON HAND. OTHERS SUCH AS "CANDY BOMBER" HALVERSON HAVE BEEN BACK TO BERLIN FOR EARLIER AIRLIFT MEMORIAL CEREMONIES. SEVERAL GERMAN VETERANS ARE STILL ALLIED EMPLOYEES HERE. WE FEEL THAT IF IT CAN BE EASILY ARRANGED, THE PRESENCE OF A FEW SUCH VETERANS WOULD ADD AN ADDITIONAL TOUCH TO THE GOLDEN BOOK/AIRLIFT MEMORIAL EVENT.

8. WE THEREFORE HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- (A) CAN WE ASK THE BRITISH, FRENCH AND US AIR FORCE TO HAVE A SMALL PLATOON OF AIRMEN AT THE GOLDEN BOOK CEREMONY?
- (B) IS A WREATH-LAYING PRIOR TO GOLDEN BOOK CEREMONY APPROVED?

9. QSCOB CONCURS. DAVIS

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